

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07

TRSE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 MCT-01 CU-02

IO-13 SY-05 USSS-00 OC-06 CCO-00 DHA-02 OMB-01

/106 W

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O R 221003Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3408

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 240

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, ASEC, PINS

SUBJECT: JUNBLATT ASSASSINATION - SITUATION MARCH 22

REF: BEIRUT 1238 (DTG 210211Z MAR 77)

1. SUMMARY: DRUZE CENTER IN WEST BEIRUT IS NOW FOCAL

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POINT OF CONDOLENCES FOR JUNBLATT, AS CITY REMAINS QUIET

BUT TENSE. ASF HAS REPORTEDLY MADE FIRST ARRESTS (16 OF

264 ACCUSED) OF DRUZES RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS,

AS CHRISTIAN CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT SHIFTS TO DEMANDS FOR

ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRE. WALID JUNBLATT

TO MEET NATIONAL MOVEMENT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. NOTHING

FURTHER ON WHO KILLED JUNBLATT. END SUMMARY.

2. CONDOLENCES IN BEIRUT.

MARCH 21 WAS FIRST FULL DAY OF CONDOLENCES FOR KAMAL JUNBLATT AT DRUZE CENTER IN WEST BEIRUT, WITH VISITS BY MORE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND POPULAR DELEGATION FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE. VARIOUS MOTORCADES IN COMMEMORATION OF JUNBLATT WERE SEEN IN THE WEST BEIRUT STREETS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, INCLUDING A MURABITUN CONVOY WHICH PASSED THE US EMBASSY. NEVERTHELESS, BEIRUT NIGHT OF MARCH 21-22 AND MORNING OF MARCH 22 QUIET, WITH STREET LIFE ABOUT AS USUAL.

3. ARRESTS OF AVENGERS APPARENTLY BEGUN.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASF COMMANDER COL. AL-HAJJ HAS REPORTED TO SARKIS THAT ASF ELEMENTS IN THE CHOUF HAVE ARRESTED SIXTEEN DRUZES ACCUSED OF SLAUGHTERING CHRISTIANS, AND AL AMAL SAYS ABOUT 30 SO FAR ARRESTED. AL-HAJJ SAYS ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF THOSE ACCUSED ARE THEMSELVES WOMEN AND CHILDREN. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE PREPARED LISTS ACCUSING TOTAL OF 264 DRUZES OF MASSACRES, INCLUDING DETAILS OF THEIR CRIMES. TOTAL OF CHRISTIANS KILLED AND IDENTIFIED IN CHOUF NOW STANDS AT 129. MAYOR OF DEIR EL QAMAR MARCH 21 SAID ASF ELEMENTS ARE ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH LOCAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS BUT STILL LACKED ORDERS TO ARRESTS ANYONE.

3. CHRISTIANS CONTINUE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT.

CHRISTIAN DEMANDS ON GOVERNMENT HAVE NOW SHIFTED IN EMPHASIS  
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FROM CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF CHOUF CHRISTIANS TO DEMANDS FOR ACTION AGAINST DRUZES WHO HAVE KILLED CHRISTIANS. ACCORDING TO BAYRAQ, TANZIM LEADER GEORGE ADWAN, AFTER PRESIDING MEETING OF "COMBINED FORCES" LEADERSHIP MARCH 21, DESCRIBED GOL/ASF STEPS TO DATE AS "INSUFFICIENT." CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID KFUR LEADERS DEMAND THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF THOSE GUILTY OF MASSACRES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND "NUMEROUS DRUZE PERSONALITIES FROM THE MOUNTAINS ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH US ON THIS QUESTION." WE HAVE A REPORT, FROM FSI SOURCE, THAT FORMER PRESIDENT FRANGIEH IS GOING TO DEMAND THE REPLACEMENT OF COL. AL-HAJJ FOR HIS ALLEGED FAILURE TO REACT PROMPTLY TO PROTECT CHOUF CHRISTIANS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER GOL/ASF ACTION IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO DEFUSE CHRISTIAN THREATS OF COUNTER-RETALIATION BEGINNING MARCH 23. ONE STORY HAS IT THAT 22 YOUNG CHRISTIANS AT DEIR EL QAMAR ON MARCH 20 OR 21 SWORE REVENGE AGAINST THE DRUZES, BUT WERE TOLD BY CAMILLE CHAMOUN TO NOT DO ANYTHING FOR 48 HOURS.

5. WALID.

AS SAFIR REPORTS THAT WALID JUNBLATT HAS CALLED A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP FOR MARCH 22. FSI CHIEF OF STAFF DAHROUJE TELLS US THAT WALID HAS BEEN PREVAILED UPON BY THE ARSLAN FAMILY TO RECEIPROCATATE THE VISIT OF CONDOLENCES OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION (REFTEL) BY A CALL ON SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD, AFTER 40 DAYS.

6. WHO DID IT?

GOL CONTINUES SHOW APPEARANCES OF INTENSIVE INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY TO DETERMINE WHO KILLED JUNBLATT, AND HAS REFERRED CASE TO THE STATE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, BUT WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION ON THE CRIME. RADIO BAGHDAD HAS ACCUSED RIFAT AL-ASAD, BROTHER OF THEY SYRIAN PRESIDENT.

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009